CLAIMS

1. A flat knitting machine comprising a yarn carrier and a movable yarn guide provided along a yarn guide rail, and a carriage having accompanying means,

5   wherein the accompanying means is capable of allowing accompaniment of the yarn carrier, and releasing the accompaniment of the yarn carrier, and also capable of allowing accompaniment of the movable yarn guide, and releasing the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide; and

control data for the movable yarn guide is provided in a knitting program to control

10 the carriage such that the position of the movable yarn guide is kept within a predetermined range relative to the yarn carrier for allowing the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide by the accompanying means.

2. The flat knitting machine according to claim 1, wherein the carriage has a

15 plurality of cam systems for operating a needle on a needle bed and a plurality of the accompanying means along a longitudinal direction of the needle bed; and

one of the accompanying means along the longitudinal direction of the needle bed accompanies the yarn carrier, and at the same time, another accompanying means accompanies the movable yarn guide.

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3. The flat knitting machine according to claim 2, wherein the position of releasing the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide is selected such that the carriage does not move only for allowing the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide.

25   4. The flat knitting machine according to claim 1, further comprising means for converting control data for the yarn carrier in the knitting program into the control data for the movable yarn guide.

5. A knitting program for use in a flat knitting machine for operating a needle of a needle bed by a carriage and moving a yarn carrier provided in a yarn guide rail, wherein

the flat knitting machine comprises the yarn carrier and a movable yarn guide

5   provided along the yarn guide rail, and the carriage having accompanying means;

the accompanying means is capable of allowing accompaniment of the yarn carrier, and releasing the accompaniment of the yarn carrier, and also capable of allowing accompaniment of the movable yarn guide, and releasing the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide; and

10   control data for allowing the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide by the accompanying means is provided in the knitting program to control the carriage such that the position of the movable yarn guide is kept within a predetermined range relative to the yarn carrier.

15   6. A method of generating a knitting program for use in a flat knitting machine for operating a needle of a needle bed by a carriage and moving a yarn carrier provided in a yarn guide rail, wherein

the flat knitting machine comprises the yarn carrier and a movable yarn guide provided along the yarn guide rail, and the carriage having accompanying means;

20   the accompanying means is capable of allowing accompaniment of the movable yarn guide, and releasing the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide;

control data for the yarn carrier is provided in the knitting program; and

the control data for the yarn carrier is converted to generate control data for the movable yarn guide for allowing the position of the movable yarn guide to be kept within a

25   predetermined range relative to the yarn carrier.